

Young Parents To Be – London Evaluation Report: June 2011	
1. Name of Borough	Hackney (The Learning Trust)
2. Name of person completing this report	Jo Margrie
3. Number of young people (16-18) participating in the programme	11 young mothers registered their interest during the recruitment process resulting in 6 registered learners. All 6 completed the programme.
3a. How many of these young people have not completed their programme on or before 30 June 2011	0 (all completed)
4. Name of the provider completing Individualised Learner Records (ILRs) for participants	Hackney Community College
4a. Names of other providers / organisations that were integral to the delivery of the Programme	<p>Skills and Knowledge For the Future (SKFF) were the delivery agent for the Edexcel Level 1 Award in Parenting; SKFF worked closely with other participating agencies and provided learner support for the additional elements of study.</p> <p>Additional activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A session on weaning and teething delivered by Health Visitors • An information and practical session on baby signing provided by Tiny Talk • A session on child protection and positive discipline, which included a discussion on smacking, ran by Hackney Safeguarding Board • A mentoring session from a young mother/breast feeding mentor who is currently studying at university

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and progression advice provided by Hackney Community College • Housing, benefits and personal advice from St Martin of Tours Housing Association was provided throughout the programme <p>Participants were also given information on additional services available locally to support with well-being of families and children. For example, baby gym sessions in the centre hosting the Parents to Be programme and a free programme offering cooking and health eating sessions for parents and their pre school children.</p>
4b. What was the total value of the contract(s) you had with providers and other organisations	All the funding was devolved to SKFF who organised any additional input.
5. How many of the participants achieved a qualification, and what qualifications did they achieve: (1) How many participants achieved the following qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Entry Level Award for Parents to Be (Entry 3) (50063406) o Level 1 Award for Parents to Be (5006342X) o Level 1 Award in Parenting (50063418) o Level 1 Certificate for Parents to Be and in Parenting (50063431) (2) How many participants achieved other Foundation Learning qualifications	(1) Level 1 Award in Parenting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 have achieved at least 2 units and had their units passed by IV; • 4 out of 6 are being supported to achieve full accreditation; • 1 out of 6 was a late starter due to child birth and will be working towards achieving 1 unit of the Level 1 Award in Parenting; (2) Upon completion of the Level 1 Award in Parenting, 6 participants are progressing on to BTEC Level 1/ 2 Award in Work Skills. This award will be delivered by Hackney Community

<p>(3)) How many participants achieved other qualifications</p>	<p>College and promoted to learners as part of the YPTB programme. This will take place over a period of 4 weeks.</p> <p>(3) Success rates for work skills not available until late July.</p>
<p>5a. How many participants have progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Into / back into learning • Into jobs 	<p>6 participants have progressed back into learning.</p>
<p>6. What factors occurred that made it difficult for you to deliver the Programme in the way you originally planned?</p>	<p>Recruitment The recruitment process proved difficult as there was limited data available from participating agencies; agencies felt that they were unable to pass on personal information due to data protection. We were unable to recruit fathers as they tended to be older than the mothers and therefore ineligible.</p> <p>It proved impossible to recruit only 'young parents to be' as the eligible range was too limited. The age range excluded two young people keen to join the programme, a 19 year old who was the partner of one of the younger participants and a 14 year old 'young parent to be'. The final cohort was a combination of expectant mothers and those who had recently given birth aged 16-18.</p> <p>Venue We initially intended to deliver the project at either a Children's Centre or a college although this proved impossible as they were unable to provide crèche facilities for very young babies. The ultimate solution was to use a new sports centre and for SKFF to provide a crèche using agency crèche workers. This proved</p>

	<p>very popular with the participants.</p> <p>Qualifications The participants were highly motivated and some would have benefited from the option to take units at level 2. SKFF had the capability to deliver at this level but were prevented by the requirements of the programme.</p>
<p>7. What worked particularly well, and why do you think that was the case?</p>	<p>Recruitment Despite the issues surrounding the recruitment process, SKKF managed to register (and retain for the whole programme) 6 learners onto the programme. Particularly successful was disseminating flyers to all relevant organisations in the borough, and surrounding areas. Word of mouth was paramount to the successful recruitment for this programme due to the past successes of previous young parents' projects delivered by SKFF.</p> <p>Staff The project was managed and delivered by a variety of staff, with appropriate qualifications to support and deliver the award. They also provided a range of support and mentoring services in addition to the delivery of the programme.</p> <p>Venue SKFF is a mobile training provider, so has the flexibility to deliver at any suitable venue. After consideration of the childcare needs for the cohort it was decided to use Queensbridge Sports and Community Centre for this particular project. It offered a range of suitable rooms, facilities i.e. baby changing room, lifts, recreation area, outdoor playground area and services relevant to young mothers i.e. baby gym. They were also happy to</p>

	<p>support the crèche arrangements organised by SKFF.</p> <p>Partnerships Previous and new partnerships formed by SKFF proved very valuable to the successful delivery of the project, i.e. sessions delivered by Health Visitors/Community Nursery Nurse, Tiny Talk and Hackney Safeguarding Board in addition to the opportunity for parents to progress onto further education or employment opportunities via Head of Student Support and Progression at Hackney Community College who also arranged registration on the ILR.</p> <p>Crèche As the partner agencies (college, Children's Centres) were unable to provide crèche facilities for mothers with very young babies, SKFF registered with OFSTED to provide a mobile crèche provision for the project. This was held in a room close to the teaching space so parents could visit their babies whenever they needed to. This proved an excellent solution and helped both babies and mothers to learn how to cope with separation and to trust adults outside their immediate family. This will prove invaluable to those young mothers already planning to continue their studies.</p> <p>Distance Learning It was decided to provide a distance learning option to suit the needs and circumstances of individual young parents i.e. advanced pregnancy, financial constraints, distance travelled, etc. Staff devised appropriate distance learning resources and provided support to enable the participants to achieve, including telephone and email support. One learner submitted her evidence electronically; some used</p>
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	<p>computers available onsite during sessions, while others preferred to take home hard copies of activities that they could complete at home. The last option proved very popular with some participants requesting extra work.</p>
<p>8. If you were to run a similar programme in the future, what would you do differently?</p>	<p>Recruitment We would have arranged a longer recruitment period to allow recruitment of sufficient numbers of participants from areas of high need within the borough. We would also request a widening of the cohort to 14-25 to allow more young people to participate.</p> <p>Continuous Provision This programme has proved extremely popular with participants. It could be run as a roll on roll off activity or a summer holiday programme. Teen pregnancy is difficult to predicate and the length of time taken to complete courses varies from participant to participant so flexible provision is important.</p> <p>Availability It has been identified that it would be advantageous to provide sessions in a variety of locations across the borough. Some potential participants did not take up the course offer as they were reluctant to move across postcodes or zones due to safety concerns.</p>
<p>9. Are there any case studies of young people who have benefitted from their participation on the programme? If so, please provide details.</p>	<p>One of the participants, who had initial anxieties about joining the programme, after attending one session and meeting the staff and other mothers, felt confident to attend the whole programme. This particular participant has shown her eagerness and commitment to obtain accreditation despite being heavily pregnant, and is now hoping to</p>

	<p>complete the full award. Based on the recommendations of the assessor and the preceding IV report, the candidate has been commended for her hard work, dedication and the excellent evidence she has produced. To a large extent, she took charge of her own learning through completing some evidence autonomously and undertaking her own research. The programme has helped the participant clarify her career objectives to progress onto further training towards midwifery. The programme gave the knowledge and confidence as a parent, but is also relevant to her future studies.</p>
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